Exploring Global Populations with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand the distribution of human population across the globe and identify factors that influence where people choose to live.

Read each question carefully and use your geography knowledge to provide detailed answers. Remember to think about why some areas of the world are more crowded than others.

Finn the Dolphin has spent years travelling the world's oceans. From his vantage point in the water, he has noticed that human settlements are not spread out evenly. Some coastal cities are bustling with millions of people, while vast areas like deserts and mountain ranges remain quiet and empty. Using your knowledge of geography, answer the following questions about why human populations are distributed the way they are.

Word bank: population density · urbanisation · settlement · climate · resources · infrastructure · remote · migration

1. Define the term 'population density'. Why might a city have a higher population density than a remote mountain village? (2 marks)

2. Identify two physical factors (natural features) that might encourage people to settle in a specific area. Explain your choices. (2 marks)

3. Imagine a new town is being built. List two types of infrastructure that would be essential to support a growing population of 10,000 people. (2 marks)

4. Explain one reason why a person might choose to migrate from a rural village to a large, busy city. (2 marks)

5. Look at a world map in your head. Name one country with a very high population density and one region that is very sparsely populated. Suggest one reason for each. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch comparing a high-density area (like a city centre with tall buildings and transport) and a low-density area (like a rural forest or desert). Label the key differences you see.

Extension challenge: Research the population of the United Kingdom. If you were a town planner, what is one thing you would change about your local area to make it a better place for a growing population to live?